

**Notice of Public Scoping
Grazing Permit Renewals
and
Land Health Assessments**

Comment Period: Open until December 15, 2004

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The Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, 13 grazing permit/leases will expire during Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 (10/1/04 – 9/30/05). To process the renewal of these permits/leases we would like the public to identify any issues, concerns, or resource conditions on the allotments(s) associated with the permit/leases, to assist us in prioritizing the work. The following grazing permits/leases will expire during FY 2005:

FY 2005: Permit Renewals			
Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Permittee/Lessee	County
31 Mile Mtn. #05125	2,666		Fremont
Black Mountain #05843	1,748	Montez, Vincent P.	Heurfino
Burlingame Ditch #05831	430	Saunders, Roger S.	Park
East Box Canyon #05144	1,435	Thomas, Phil & Sandra	Fremont
Hardscrabble Mtn. #05865	82	Wachholtz, Lester D.	Custer
Hot Springs #05198	1,430	American Bison Co.	Park
Little Turkey Creek #05760	909	Billups, Frances	El Paso
Mill Gulch West #15052	1,865	Hammons??	Fremont
Pony Gulch #05093	1,260	Gaffney, Jack	Teller
Rattlesnake #15014	3,795	Gaffney, Jack	Teller
Silverheel #05853	160	Silverheels Land & Cattle	Park
South Spring Branch #05803	720	Three-S Ranch, Inc.	Heurfino
Trout Creek South #05080	880	Alta Vista Ranch LLC	Park

Also, in FY 2005, the RGFO is currently planning on conducting public land health assessments on grazing allotments within various watersheds in Chaffee, Fremont, and Park Counties. A number of livestock grazing permits/leases in this area may also be reviewed and renewed during FY 2005. The health assessments will be planned on the following allotments:

FY 2005: Health Assessment Areas			
Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Permittee/Lessee	County
Antero Res. Allotment	826	Esparza, Rafael S.	Park
Antero Reservoir	384	Esparza, Rafael S.	Park
Balfour North	400	Stonebreaker, W.N.	Park
Bear Creek	2,705	Bear Creek Valley Ranch, LLC	Chaffee / Fremont
Browns Canyon	1,159	Dines, Tyson JR.	Chaffee
Buffalo Creek	80	Salt Works Ranch	Park
Burlingame Ditch	430	Saunders, Roger S.	Park
Como	1,402	Hurst, Edna L.	Park
Como Park	200	Hutchinson, James D.	Park
Como Park East	4,909	Innes, Monte K.	Park
Crooked Creek	698	Plankinton, Bruce R.	Park
Eleven mile Canyon	9,998	Elk Mountain Cattle CO.	Park
Four mile Creek	1,682	Plankinton, Bruce R.	Park
Four mile Ranch	543	Esparza, Rafael S.	Park
Garo	1,943	Shaw, Tom	Park
Harlin Ditch	696	Walker, Marcus W.	Park
Hecla Junction East	2,785	Everett Land & Cattle CO.	Chaffee
High Creek	1,181	Mills, Joanne	Park
Howard Creek	916	Canterbury, Tim C.	Fremont
Kaufman Ridge	4,045	Sipal, Oldrich & Katherine	Park
Kerr Gulch	5,847	Unallotted	Fremont
Link Ditch	434	Johns, David, John & Darrell	Park
Logan Hill	694	Engelman, Wyatt L.	Park
Malice Ditch	607	Esparza, Rafael S.	Park
Maverick Gulch	4,067	Canterbury, Tim C.	Fremont
Methodist Mt.	2,989	Vandaveer, Glen Oyler, George E. Hutchinson, Wendell	Chaffee
Michigan Campground	1,136	Wahl, Frieda Estate-Frida Bargas	Park
Mulligan Lakes	363	Magness Land & Cattle	Park
Park Ditch	2,494	Everett Land & Cattle CO.	Chaffee
Park Gulch	2,991	Denison, James	Park
Park Gulch East	320	Hurst, Edna L.	Park
Playa Lakes	1,640	Eagle Rock Ranch	Park
Pole Gulch	1,882	Bondurant, Gene	Fremont
Pruden Creek	320	Snare, Kenny & Cindy	Park
Red Hill Pass	1,227	Rex Motors Inc.	Park
Ruby Mountain	5,220	McMurry Land & Livestock CO.	Chaffee

Salt Works Pasture	160	Salt Works Ranch	Park
Santa Maria	120	Carey, James A.	Park
Silver Heel	160	Silverheels Land & Cattle	Park
Steel Gulch	449	Boston, Frank	Park
Stout Creek	136	Oxford, L.G.	Fremont
Trout Creek	2,461	Yunikar, William	Park
Trout Creek North	550	Safari Horse Ranch LTD.	Park
Trout Creek South	885	Alta Vista Ranch LLC.	Park
Twelve mile Club	1,915	Neukirch, Dave C.	Park
Warm Springs	1,750	Hart, Donald R.	Park
Wellsville	6,407	Everett Land & Cattle CO.	Chaffee
West Box Canyon	5,215	Pease, Donn	Fremont

The RGFO will be reviewing and making decisions on a number of the grazing permits/leases and allotments listed above. Grazing use on these allotments will be analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and reviewed for conformance with BLM land use plans and compliance with Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing in Colorado. Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be. We welcome comments regarding these permits/leases and allotments at anytime. However, for specific comments and issues to be included and addressed in the analysis of these allotments, they need to be submitted by December 15, 2004. Please contact Keith Berger, Tom Grette or Jeff Williams at (719) 269-8500 if you have any questions regarding this matter.